

Engagement

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Here is input for our advice on engagement:

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The following summarizes a potential path on engagement in Ottawa, developed in consultation with police experts:

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The primary object of police engagement is to de-escalate and to facilitate protestors leaving the protest. The approach is to identify leaders that emerge during a protest and, through them, address the compliance and resolve of protestors. As general matter, the majority of protestors have weak attachment to the cause and are looking for reason to stop, while wanting assurance that their views have been heard. Given this, police suggest that a common approach is for a deal to be made that the protestors leave, in return for an offer to represent their views in another forum.

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With respect to the current situation in Ottawa, the OPP advise that there are a small number of identified leaders in the truck blockades and a significant number of truckers eager to depart after the unexpectedly long stay in Ottawa. They think the leaders can be approached with a proposition: protestors leave the city, denouncing the blockade, in return for a promise to meet at a future point with government representatives. As of Thursday, February 10 at 9:30am, the OPP indicate that they have not yet been granted permission to engage by the Ottawa Police Service.

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Executing the OPP's potential plan will require identification of who would represent the government in a future meeting. A range of choices are possible: senior official(s), a third party, or political representatives. In order to guard against the possibility that the meeting could be perceived as a concession on policy grounds, it would be advisable if the representative be an official who could be seen to credibly bear protest messages to other authorities.

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